

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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HONG KONG FOR INS DIDIR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE BOAT REFUGEES IN KOREA

REF: A. SEOUL 2832 (NOTAL), B. GENEVA 3114 (NOTAL)

1. WE ARE DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN FROM REF A THAT UNDP
OFFICIAL IN ROK, WHO ACTS AS UNHCR REP, HAS MADE NO EFFORT
TO INTEREST THIRD COUNTRIES IN ACCEPTING ANY OF 45 VIET-
NAMESE REFUGEES FROM SAMDOHO, THAT SUCH EFFORTS ARE NOT
WITHIN THE SCOPE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES, AND THAT HE HAS
RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM UNHCR TO TAKE SUCH ACTION.

2. GENEVA AND KUALA LUMPUR SHOULD AGAIN EMPHASIZE TO
UNHCR AND ITS REGIONAL REP THAT U.S. IS NOT RESPONSIBLE
FOR ACCEPTING ALL OR ANY BOAT REFUGEES IN KOREA, THAT THIS
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IS PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM, THAT U.S. NUMBERS ARE
LIMITED, AND THAT WE THEREFORE URGE UNHCR TO TAKE WHATEVER
STEPS MAY BE NECESSARY TO TRY TO GET THIRD COUNTRIES TO
ACCEPT AT LEAST THOSE REFUGEES IN ROK WITH TIES TO THIRD
COUNTRIES. WHILE THIS IS INTERNAL UNHCR MATTER, WE
SUGGEST THAT PERHAPS REGIONAL REP SHOULD VISIT KOREA TO
CARRY OUT UNHCR FUNCTIONS IF UNDP OFFICER UNABLE OR

UNWILLING TO DO SO.

3. U.S., OF COURSE, WOULD BE WILLING ACCEPT ANY REFUGEES WITH CLOSE RELATIVES IN U.S. AS LONG AS PROGRAM SPACES REMAIN AVAILABLE. WE MIGHT ALSO ACCEPT THOSE WITH SPECIAL TIES TO U.S. SUCH AS EMPLOYMENT OR EDUCATION OR ANY OTHERS WITHOUT RELATIVES OR TIES TO THIRD COUNTRIES. BECAUSE OF LIMITED NUMBERS IN OUR PROGRAM, HOWEVER, WE WOULD EXPECT UNHCR TO BRING TO ATTENTION OF THIRD COUNTRIES REFUGEES WITH CLOSE RELATIVES IN OR SPECIAL TIES WITH SUCH COUNTRIES.

4. SINCE ONLY 45 REFUGEES ARE IN KOREA, CASELOAD IS TOO SMALL TO JUSTIFY FUNDING OF VISIT THERE BY SPECIAL JVR. THEREFORE, WE RELY ON UNHCR TO PRESENT TO EMBASSY CASES WITH FULLY-DEVELOPED BIOGRAPHIES OF THOSE REFUGEES WITH CLOSE RELATIVES OR SPECIAL TIES TO U.S., AS WELL AS THOSE WHO DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE THIRD COUNTRY TIES. UNHCR REP SHOULD SIMILARLY PRESENT TO OTHER EMBASSIES DOSSIERS OF REFUGEES WITH SPECIAL TIES TO OTHER COUNTRIES. SUCH ACTION IS NORMAL PRACTICE OF UNHCR OR ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN OTHER COUNTRIES GIVING TEMPORARY ASYLUM TO BOAT REFUGEES, AND WE SEE NO REASON WHY IT SHOULD NOT CARRY OUT THIS FUNCTION IN KOREA AS WELL.

5. WHEN UNHCR PRESENTS DOSSIERS TO EMBASSY IN SEOUL, THEY SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO HA/ORM IN DEPT. AT SAME TIME, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEOUL SHOULD CABLE VISA FALCON CLEARANCE AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, AMERICAN RED CROSS RELATIVE SEARCH REQUESTS. WHEN VISA FALCON CLEARANCES ARE RECEIVED, SEOUL SHOULD REQUEST INS DIDIR HONG KONG TO SEND OFFICER TO KOREA TO INTERVIEW REFUGEES. SEOUL SHOULD THEN INFORM HA/ORM IN DEPT WHICH REFUGEES ARE APPROVED BY INS, AND DEPT WILL THEN FORWARD BIOGRAPHIES TO ACVA. AS SOON AS POST RECEIVES SPONSORSHIP ASSURANCES, IT SHOULD INFORM HONG KONG TO REQUEST ICEM REP TO ARRANGE TRAVEL. HONG KONG SHOULD THEN INFORM SEOUL WHAT TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS ICEM HAS MADE SO REFUGEES CAN BE MOVED. HONG KONG SHOULD ALSO REQUEST ICEM INFORM VOLAGS OF ARRIVAL SCHEDULE. CHRISTOPHER

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